

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, UNCTAD, CIPEC, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE'S PLANS FOR THE SEPTEMBER COPPER CONSULTATION

REF: (A) STATE 207962; (B) STATE 200217; (C) GENEVA 2331

1. REF (A) EXPRESSED USG RESERVATIONS ABOUT CURRENT PLANS FOR ORGANIZING COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS FOLLOWING UNCTAD IV. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE PROPOSED TIMETABLE CONTAINED THEREIN WOULD LEAD TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE COPPER CONSULTATIONS NOW SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF SEPTEMBER. WHILE WE COMPREHEND THE REASONING BEHIND THE PROPOSED DELAY, WE FEEL THAT THERE IS SOME DANGER OF A MISCONSTRUCTION ON THE PART OF THE GOZ OF OUR POSITION ON THE COPPER CONSULTATIONS. ZAIRE, WHICH IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON COPPER FOR ITS ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, TAKES INTERNATIONAL COPPER CONFERENCES SERIOUSLY; ZAIRE WAS REASONABLY PLEASED WITH THE MARCH CONSUMER/PRODUCER MEETING AND WILL PROBABLY BE SURPRISED THAT THE USG NOW WISHES TO POSTPONE THE NEXT MEETING. ACCORDING TO REF (C), ZAIRE'S DELEGATION (AND OTHERS) PLAYED A MODERATING ROLE IN MARCH. WE FEEL THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE ENCOURAGE A CONTINUATION OF THAT ATTITUDE, EVEN WHILE FORCEFULLY STATING OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK TO UNCTAD'S SECRETARY GENERAL.

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2. A SOURCE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES HAS INFORMED US THAT CIPEC'S COMMERCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN PARIS ON SEPTEMBER 17. AMONG LIKELY SUBJECTS ON AGENDA WILL BE QUESTION OF HOW UNCTAD SPONSORSHIP WILL CHANGE MIX OF PARTICIPANTS AND USEFULNESS OF CONFERENCE.

3. WE BELIEVE OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE SEPTEMBER UNCTAD MEETING EXPRESSED IN HEWITT LETTER (REF B) AND BOSWORTH LETTER (REF A) MIGHT BE FAVORABLY RECEIVED HERE, AS WELL AS IN OTHER CIPEC CAPITALS, AND WE SUGGEST SHARING OUR THOUGHTS DIRECTLY WITH THE ZAIRIANS BEFORE THE SEPT 17 MEETING. IF THE USG WISHES TO MAINTAIN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WHICH REPORTING FROM THE MARCH MEETING HAS INDICATED, WE SHOULD PUSH FOR MODERATE SUPPORT ON THE CONSULTATION ISSUE. THE COPPER CONSULTATION, BEING, WE BELIEVE, THE FIRST TO COME UP, IS LIKELY TO BE A CRUCIAL TESTING GROUND. WHY NOT ENCOURAGE GREATER UNDERSTANDING, IF NOT SUPPORT, OF OUR VIEW OF THE ISSUES?

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES THAT GENERAL MOLONGYA, MINISTER OF MINES, IS ALREADY PLANNING TO HEAD DELEGATION TO SEPT 27 UNCTAD COPPER CONSULTATION. KAPEND SAKABWANG-MOND, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF MARCH MEETING, WILL ALSO ATTEND. KAPEND WILL PROBABLY BE IN PARIS FOR CIPEC MEETING.
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